

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

<b>Project Ref No</b>	17-002
<b>Project Title</b>	Managing coral reef fisheries for biodiversity, ecosystem and economic benefits
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Maldives
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Marine Conservation Society
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Marine Research Centre, Maldives
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr Elizabeth Wood
<b>Report date</b>	Oct 2011
<b>Report No. (HYR)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.mcsuk.org/conservation_in_action/Coral+reefs/Maldives/Maldives">http://www.mcsuk.org/conservation_in_action/Coral+reefs/Maldives/Maldives</a>

## **1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).**

1. Reef fish monitoring programme established and coral reef fish stock assessments / habitat assessments completed.

Progress has been as planned. We have carried out further Fishwatch training and have analysed the first set of Fishwatch survey data, based on 156 surveys at 41 sites in 4 atolls. This has enabled us to produce the first analysis of grouper biomass by species and this has fed into the draft management plan in relation to setting of quotas. Sharkwatch data is also coming in and being analysed. Further research has been carried out on the location of spawning aggregations through consultation with fishermen.

2. System for long-term monitoring of catch, effort and value of reef fisheries established.

Proforma export forms for aquarium fish and grouper continue to be entered and collated as per schedule. The logbooks are also progressing although not quite as fast as planned. The grouper logbooks were discussed at the recent Grouper Management Workshop and it was agreed that they would be fully implemented as part of the package of measures. The aquarium logbooks are currently being trialled following further discussions and modifications.

3. Management Plans for coral reef fisheries and biodiversity conservation devised and in operation.

This is on schedule. The first 'Grouper Management Workshop' was held in September providing a vital step towards introduction of management measures. The outcomes and recommendations from the workshop have been included in a detailed Briefing Document for the Fisheries Advisory Board which is due to meet in mid-November.

4. Results of reef fish stock assessment and reef health monitoring widely disseminated.

The first Fishwatch report was disseminated to participants and other stakeholders. Results of the grouper stock assessment were disseminated at the Management Workshop held in September and further technical documents are nearing completion.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The project counterpart from MRC (Shahaama Sattar) resigned from MRC but has formally agreed (with approval from the Fisheries Ministry and the Director of MRC) to continue to co-ordinate the project and provide technical input. This does not affect the budget or timetable of project activities.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

No

**Discussed with LTS:** no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

**Formal change request submitted:** no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

**Received confirmation of change acceptance** no/yes in.....(month/yr)

**3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

No

**If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.**

**Estimated carryforward request: £**

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No issues thankyou

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.**

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**